



Lithic Tradition of Giddalur area in AP: A Preliminary report on newly discovered stone tools

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Abstract- Stone tools are the most importance evidences and the human development at early stage. The used of the stone tool are helping the early human for survived in the earth. The first human culture has been found at Pallavaram near Madras collected some stone tools by Robert Bruce Foote in 1883 the Indian subcontinent. He collected some tools and after that the many of the tool and tool making industrial site has been highlighted. Basically the Andhra Pradesh has rich in stone tool sites along with the Industrial tool making places. Here we discuss about the newly collected tools and tools making industry site at Giddalur area and the destroyed of the industrial site of there.

KeyWord - Hand Axe, Unfinished tools, profounder tools, Blank tool, Giddalur area.

I. Introduction

The prehistoric period human were used the stone for the hunting and gathering. For the food human walk place to place and settled for different place. At the time they were make the tool for the hunting and other purposes. They built the tool and used it. Same Andhra Pradesh has reported many of the tools which were provide the human settlement and the prehistoric culture. Specific the A the area of Giddalur identified the prehistoric culture tool industry site. In Early the way Back in 1930, MC burkit and L.A. Cammaide together excavated the pre historic palace and Andhra Pradesh and published the report 1930.

In earlier the Robert Bruce foot also collected some tool and published the Bruce foot collection of India in 1884. Thereafter the first pre historic human settlement in India came to light and more of the study was carried out by several archaeologist and anthropologist. Much more tools were collected not only in the southern India but also it found also eastern and northern part of Indian as well as central India. The tool provide the evidence of the first human development in the stone tools technique and walk right man to one place to another place for the hunting and gathering and food collection. Of the tools where founded.

Prehistoric culture is given opportunity to know the human past through the stone tool, human fossil along with the earliest environment condition. Not only the tool gives the information about the human past but also give the environment of earth. It also refers to information about the pre human nature and developments and the economic conditions with special the human suffering and food eco system of early human. The



early human how could be alive at the juncture of without science and machinery age with their growth and development.

Geographical System

Giddalur is part of the Nallamala Hills region, rich in prehistoric sites. The area has yielded evidence from different Stone Age periods, including the Lower Paleolithic, Middle Paleolithic, and Upper Paleolithic phases. The Giddalur area comes under the Prakasham District of Andrapradesh state. It's located at 15.3500°N 78.9167°E, and is surrounded by the Nallamala Forest in southern India. It is the mandal headquarters of the Giddalur mandal in Markapur revenue division. It was part of Kurnool district till 1969 later it was merged into Prakasam district in 1970. Till 2008 it was under Nandyal parliament segment after delimitation it was moved to Ongole MP Segment. Giddalur is also known as "3 zilla la muddu bidda" because during the Britishers rule it was in Kadapa district later moved to Kurnool then in 1970 merged in Prakasam district. Giddalur is the only constituency in coastal districts which has Rayalseema culture, slang and traditions. Giddalur town has good transport connectivity to Nandyal, Markapur, Podili, Ongole, Kurnool, Kadapa.

The geological significant of the Giddalur region classification in

- The region consists of Cuddaphaozoic geological system and Karnoolazoic geological system.
- The Karnoolazoic geological system sleeps over awkwardly upon the very upturned edges of the Cuddaphaozoic geological system.
- The eastern portion comprising Giddalur Virtually consists of quartzite.
- The Central portion Includes the Karnool System displays limestone and quartzites.
- The western most portion is structured partly with Cuddapha system, and the other part its very extreme western most portion consists of Achaean formation consisting of granite rocks.
- There is an intercalation of shades and quartzite in the structures portions of the middle and eastern section of the Karnool region.
- The sagileru shades are often quartzite. They are much brighter or ash coloured than those further north. They are grey or Purple.
- The shades mentioned above are highly cleaved oblique to the bedding planes, and weathers along the cleavages in to silvery platy bits.

Previous work

There have lot of tool collected by Different places of Giddalur area which have Most of the tools collected Giddalur area i.e.- Giddalur I and Giddalur II . Commaiade and Burkitt work together and collected the toll which was described as four of the site. The Sites rich with stone tools as analysis below. 6

Table 1: The Sites.

Sites	Observation large Cliff sections at Geo-Archaic Reion	Evidence
A	Opposite to Krishnapuram at the	Cliffs



	western entrance of Dronala – Atmakurpass	
B	Yarrakondapalem near eastern of the Dronala-Atmalur	Chips
C	Gundla Brahmesvaramat the top mountain vally on the bank of Gundlakam	Quartzite
D	Giddalur town near Nandikanmama pass, two river Sagileru, Enumaleru	Chips

Table 2: Previous collected Tools and the sites

Types	Site-I Giddalur-I	Sites-II Giddalur-II	Tapapalle	Kanchipalle
Pebbel Tools	2	3	1	--
Rostorocarinales	2	--	--	--
Victoria West	2	--	1	--
Abbevilleo-Achulian Handaxes	13	6	9	3
Achulian Handaxe	19	8	13	1
Ovids	14	--	7	--
Clevers	6	4	5	12
Clactonean Flakes and flake Scrapers	11	30	10	--
Proto-Lavallois	--	10	2	--
Bladish Flakes	--	14	--	--
Coarse Burinate Tools	1	5	--	--
Cores and Core Scrapers	--	3	--	--
Total No of tools	10	7	3	3
	80	90	51	19

Collected Tools

The tools were collected from the SCE School New Road site, located approximately 3.5 kilometers from Giddalur city. The school is connected to the Kurnool-Ongole National Highway, and the road itself is composed of yellowish earth, densely packed with gravel and large-sized stones. All the collected lithic tools were found along this



road, which is directly linked to the national highway. The raw material for these tools appears to have originated from Edavalli, a small nearby hill that serves as a local source of stone. This suggests that the tools were either manufactured or deposited using material from this specific geological formation.

Discovered tools description Tool Blank

Measurement: 17cm long, 10cm wide and 5cm thickness

an early stage in the tool-making process where a stone piece was either partially worked or abandoned before being fully shaped, often due to material flaws or functional limitations. These blanks may retain faint or partial negative flake scars, which are sometimes difficult to see due to erosion or incomplete working. In many cases, such blanks were either used in a rudimentary form or discarded by early humans due to the poor quality of the raw material, such as excessive brittleness, internal cracks, or unsuitable texture.

Profounder heavy tool

Measurement: 19cm Long 13cm wide and 9cm thickness

The core tool is considered one of the most important or "foundational" tools in prehistoric times. These core tools were shaped from large stone nodules and were either used directly or used to produce flakes, which could then be modified into other tools. The profounder tool is a fundamental or primary tool in early human prehistory, from which various other tools such as hand axes, flake tools, and chopping tools were produced through multiple stone tool-making techniques. Like Direct Percussion, Hard Hammer and Soft Hammer method, Bipolar Technique, Pressure Flaking

Hand Axe or Multipurpose tools

Measurement: 16cm Long 13cm wide and 4cm thickness

Although initially intended to be shaped as a hand axe, some tools were ultimately used as scraper-cum- cleavers, serving multiple functions. Early humans demonstrated remarkable adaptability by using these tools not only for hunting wild animals, but also for digging, scraping tree bark, and processing plant and animal materials, reflecting their practical approach to survival and tool utility.

Highly eroded Hand Axe.

Measurement: 15cm long, 9cm wide and 4cm thickness

A highly eroded hand axe refers to a stone tool that has been subjected to prolonged exposure to natural elements such as wind, water, or soil movement, resulting in the loss of sharp edges, surface flaking, and original tool marks. Despite the erosion, the general morphology such as its bifacial shape or pointed end often remains recognizable, allowing archaeologists to still identify its original function and cultural affiliation. Due to water stone totally change the shape and size.

Used pebble.

Measurement: 16.cm long, 10cm wide and 5cm thickness.

Used pebble is one of the most primitive forms of stone tools employed by early humans, especially during the Lower Paleolithic period. These are naturally shaped stones—typically rounded or oval pebbles those were minimally modified or



sometimes not intentionally shaped at all, but were used directly for basic tasks such as hammering, pounding, or scraping.

These all of the tools also made with Ortho Quartzite and Meta Quartzite, Many of the clay stone have been found from the site. May the early human try to make the tool from the sedimentary stone but, due to bad quality of material can't make the good tools. From the sites so many unused tools have left by the early man who has found from the sites.

Tools making Technique

Pebble tools were among the earliest known tools used by prehistoric humans, dating back to the Lower Paleolithic period (around 2.5 million years ago). These tools were primarily made by chipping one side of a naturally shaped pebble to create a sharp edge. The process is known as percussion flaking, where another rock (hammer stone) was used to strike the pebble and remove flakes.⁷

- Selection of Material – Early humans chose hard, durable stones like quartzite, flint, or basalt.
- Percussion Flaking – They struck the pebble with another stone (hammerstone) to create a sharp cutting edge.
- Shaping – Some tools were further shaped by controlled flaking to improve effectiveness.
- Techniques of Tool-Making from Profounder Tools:
- Direct Percussion – Striking the core with a hammer stone to remove flakes.
- Hard Hammer and Soft Hammer methods – For rough and finer shaping respectively.
- Bipolar Technique – Placing the core on an anvil and striking from above.
- Pressure Flaking – Especially in later periods, used for shaping finer edges.

II. Conclusion

The Paleolithic sites in South India offer insights into the cultural transitions that occurred over time. The overlap of Middle and Upper Paleolithic tools at some sites suggests a gradual transition in human cognition and tool-making capabilities, reflecting cultural continuity alongside technological advancement.

South Indian occupies a significant place in the genesis and spread of pre historic cultures from the Paleolithic to Neolithic as concern the tools making factory site. Which proved that the site and the man stay with a long period along with developed the tools for advance to advance for better used in hunter and gathering food. Not only the four major sites recovered as much evidence of tools but also seem as most of the site unknown. The edavalli sites not working properly more of the tools evidence proved that more information about the prehistoric culture as well as the early human development as there regions. It is clearly proved that the early man has made plan for the tool making and development there and used as to survive the situations. In the other

hand some of the tool used as not only in the first time but also used as multi time and according the same tools making furnished for another time reused.

The development of stone tools at Giddalur in Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh, is a fascinating subject tied to the broader context of prehistoric archaeology in the Indian subcontinent. This region has been a significant site for understanding the evolution of human technology and adaptation during the Stone Age. Further excavations and interdisciplinary studies, such as lithic analysis, pale environmental studies, and dating techniques, could provide deeper insights into the life and technological innovations of early humans at Giddalur. Thus the Stone Age culture of south Indian enrich from the Paleolithic to Neolithic period and continuously give the system of human settlement at the early stage. The human also coexisted with the nature. Most of the Paleolithic and Mesolithic culture and growth and development for the raw material making the stone tools and the food also found easily to survive lot of time there. South Indian plays the vital role to making stone tools and development stone tools with the plenty of raw material.



Figure 1: Tool Blank



Figure 2: highly eroded hand axe



Figure 4: Prolonged tool



Figure 2: hand Axe or Multipurpose tool

Figure 4: Profounder tool



Figure 5: Pebble Toll

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Ends Note

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